

***Primolius* Bonaparte, 1857 has priority over *Propyrrhura* Ribeiro, 1920**

by *John Penhallurick*

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In *Cotinga* 5 (1996: 32-42) Whitney published an important subjective review of the characteristics of the Neotropical parrot genera, and proposed that the large macaw genus *Ara* be broken down in several ways to reflect the diversity it contained. Among other things, he recommended that *A. maracana* (Vieillot, 1816), *A. couloni* P.L.Sclater, 1876, and *A. auricollis* Cassin, 1853 be assigned to the genus *Propyrrhura* Ribeiro, 1920. Such a move had also been advocated earlier by Sick (1990), who had indicated the availability of *Propyrrhura*. Collar (1997: 425-426) adopted the suggestion of Sick and Whitney, and reassigned *maracana*, *couloni* and *auricollis* to *Propyrrhura*, a move which was followed by Juniper & Parr (1998: 429-431). As a result, the name *Propyrrhura* has rather wide currency.

However, the choice of *Propyrrhura* Ribeiro, 1920 overlooks an earlier generic name that is available for the same three species: *Primolius* Bonaparte, 1857. *Primolius* had already been used as a subgenus by Wolters (1975-82: 56) with the notation "incl. *Propyrrhura* Ribeiro, 1920".¹ Some confusion may have been engendered by two distinct citations for *Primolius* Bonaparte, 1857. One, which appears in Salvadori (1891: 151), is to a paper in *Comptes Rendus hebdomadaires des séances de l'Académie des Sciences, Paris*, 44, p. 596 (Bonaparte, 1857a). This is undoubtedly a nomen nudum, and thus unavailable. The second, Bonaparte (1857b), (cited in Neave (1940: 889)), lists three species under *Primolius*: *auricollis* Cassin; *maracana* Vieillot; *makawanna* Gmelin [= *Psittacus manilata* Boddaert, 1783], but does not designate a type. The specification of *A. auricollis* as the type of *Primolius* Bonaparte, 1857 in Salvadori (1891: 151), under the synonymy of *Ara*, suffices as a subsequent designation. Thus *Primolius* may be cited as:

Primolius Bonaparte, 1857, *Remarques à propos des Observations de M. Émile Blanchard sur les Caractères ostéologiques chez les Oiseaux de la famille des Psittacides, et Tableau des genres des Perroquets disposés en séries parallèles*, p. 6. Type, by subsequent designation (Salvadori, 1891, *Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum*, 20, *Psittaci*, p. 151), *Ara auricollis*, Cassin 1853.

Thus the three species in question should become *Primolius couloni* (P.L.Sclater, 1876), *Primolius maracana* (Vieillot, 1816) and *Primolius auricollis* (Cassin, 1853).

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¹It is not possible to say whether Wolter's reference is to Bonaparte (1857a) or (1857b).

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Threatened and extinct bird specimens held in the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney, Australia

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The Macleay collection began in latter part of the 18th century with Alexander Macleay (1767-1848), who amassed what was considered the 'finest' insect collection in Europe and which eventually travelled with him to Australia in 1826 (Holland 1988). This collection was subsequently expanded by his son William Sharp Macleay (1792-1865) and nephew William John Macleay (1820-1891), who further diversified the collection finally transferring it to the University of Sydney, to the specially constructed Macleay Building, about 1890. George Masters (1837-1912) curated the collection over this period until his death (Stanbury & Holland 1988).

W. J. Macleay's ornithological collection probably began on 8 August 1874 at Wagga Wagga, NSW when Masters and Macleay purchased 29 bird skins. In Macleay's notes this acquisition is also the first direct mention of the collection as the Macleay Museum (Fletcher 1893). The next year Macleay approached Adolphus Boucard in London (who edited the monthly scientific and artistic journal *The*